

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN FOR AN INCOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and health care to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

My name is Nancy Barrera, I am a member of the domestic workers in Stamford (Nosotras) and I live here as well. I have three children, two born in this country and one who came with me from Guatemala. I am supporting this legislation to give the opportunity for children from nine to 18 years old to receive medical insurance because when I came to this country my son and who came with me encountered the barrier that there was no opportunity for insurance for him. He was a bit sick and it was very difficult to find a doctor and he did not have the opportunity to be attended to. Unfortunately, when the child's illness is not so serious, here they do not attend to them. Additionally, for example when he had to bring documents to school, the first thing they asked for was the physical exam and vaccinations, but it cost me a lot because I had no job and I had to pay for that appointment because when there is no insurance, here they will not see you. There is no private doctor who says I will see him so I would like you to give him and other children like him the opportunity to have health insurance. My son is already an older, he is studying and working, but he did not have the privilege that my other children who were born in this country have, for example, they have their insurance and for example, if you call their doctor for any little thing, he sees them immediately.

I support S.B. 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Going forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants, regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,  
Nancy Barrera